

Ministry of the Environment programs and initiatives

Pesticides in Ontario: Licensing and other regulatory changes

An amendment to Regulation 914 under the *Pesticides Act*

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Amendments to Regulation 914 under the Pesticides Act will affect vendors of pesticides, operators of pest management businesses and exterminators who apply pesticides.

Educational requirements have been strengthened for unlicensed assistants and new exterminator licence applicants.

Other regulatory changes will result in better protection for the environment and public health and improved compliance.
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In accordance with amendments to Regulation 914 under the Pesticides Act, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is implementing a new pesticide licensing system and introducing other requirements related to the use, handling and sale of pesticides in Ontario.

Consistent with the new national pesticide education, training and certification standard, the number of categories of pesticide licences has been reduced from 53 to 18.

The new pesticide licensing system will be phased in beginning Oct. 1, 1998 and will be in full effect by Oct. 1, 2003. Licensed operators and vendors and about 90 per cent of exterminators will be eligible to apply for equivalent licences under the new system as their licences expire. The remaining 10 per cent of exterminators will be required to complete training for a licence under the new system. It is our intention to allow a five-year grace period for these people to complete training. Affected people will be given detailed information concerning renewal of their licences prior to licence expiry.

Educational requirements for exterminator licensing will be strengthened to meet the national standard. Ridgetown College, University of Guelph will deliver the pesticide educational program, including examinations for people who need to complete certification for new exterminator licences.

The pesticides industry will deliver an MOE-approved training program on basic pesticide safety, which unlicensed assistants will be required to complete to become technicians. A technician can apply pesticides under the indirect supervision of a licensed exterminator with a weekly site visit. Effective Jan. 1, 2000, unlicensed assistants who do not train to become technicians must be directly supervised by licensed exterminators at all times.

Other changes to Regulation 914 will help to ensure responsible pesticide use.

The following questions and answers clarify some of the major changes.

Q Why is the ministry making these changes?

A Regulation 914 is one of a number of regulations that are being amended to protect the environment and safeguard public health. Pesticides used improperly can lead to environmental and health problems. The changes to Regulation 914 place Ontario ahead of the other provinces in providing education, training and guidance in the safe and responsible use of pesticides.

Q How has the pesticide licensing system been changed?

A The new licensing system will have broader licence categories, allowing a reduction in the number of categories from 53 to 18, consistent with the national pesticide certification standard. Educational material will reflect these changes and will put more emphasis on health and environmental protection.

Ridgetown College, University of Guelph will take over training from MOE. The college will provide training material and administer examinations for new exterminators. The pesticides industry will deliver an MOE-approved training program on basic pesticide safety which unlicensed assistants will be required to complete to become technicians.

Q What are some of the other regulatory changes that have been made?

A Other changes require recycling of empty pesticide containers and standardizing insurance coverage for people operating extermination companies. Practices and procedures for the use of fumigants have been clarified and modernized.

Licensing

Q How do the changes affect existing licence holders?

A MOE will mail renewal notices to existing licence holders before their licences expire. Operators, vendors and about 90 per cent of exterminators will be eligible to apply for equivalent licences under the new system. The remaining 10 per cent of exterminators will be required to complete additional training before they can apply for a broader licence under the new system. It is our intention to allow a five-year grace period for these people to complete training. They will be given detailed information concerning renewal of their licences before their licences expire.

Operators

Q How will the changes affect existing operator licence holders?

A Under the new system there is only one operator licence category to cover land, structural and water extermination businesses. Operators will need to apply for this new licence, submit a fee of \$200 and meet the new insurance requirements. MOE will mail licence renewal notices in early 1999.

Q What are the new insurance requirements for operators?

A Pest control businesses will need standardized comprehensive third party liability insurance of not less than \$1 million. Liability coverage is also required for off-target impacts of pesticides applied by aircraft. The insurance policies must also include pollution coverage, for emissions or discharges, of not less than \$200,000.

Q Will there be any future requirements for operators?

A New applicants for operator licences will be required to hold an exterminator's licence as of Jan. 1, 1999. This requirement will not apply to existing operators until renewal of their licences on Feb. 15, 2000.

Vendors

Q If I am a vendor, how will I be affected by the new licensing system?

A Under the new system there are only two vendor licence categories. Depending on the pesticide schedules that you sell, you will need to apply for either of the new licences and submit a fee of \$110 (limited vendor) or \$200 (general vendor). Beginning in August 1998, MOE will mail renewal notices to existing licence holders as their licences come up for renewal.

Exterminators

Q If I am an exterminator, how do the changes affect me?

A The new system has 15 exterminator licence categories. About 90 per cent of existing exterminators will be eligible to apply for equivalent licences under the new system. The remaining 10 per cent of exterminators will be required to complete training, through Ridgetown College, University of Guelph, for a licence under the new system. It is our intention to allow a five-year grace period for these people to complete training. Affected people will be given detailed information concerning renewal of their licences before their licences expire.

Q When will the licensing changes affect me?

A Starting in August 1998, MOE will mail renewal notices to existing exterminators as their licences come up for renewal. The notices will indicate which equivalent licence(s) you are eligible for under the new system. You will have to apply for one or more of these licences and submit a fee of \$90 for each licence which will be valid for five years.

Q If I hold the land class 1 and 3 licences, what licence will I get under the new system?

A You may apply for the landscape and/or industrial vegetation and/or forestry licence, depending on your needs. Each new licence will cost \$90 and will be valid for five years.

Fees

Q Will licence fees increase?

Type of licence	Current fee	New fee	Licence span
Exterminators	\$90	\$90	5 years
Vendors	\$90-\$900	\$110-\$200	5 years
Operators	\$36	\$200	1 year

Q Will training fees increase?

A Training will be provided by Ridgetown College, University of Guelph. The college will set fees to recover the costs of publishing and distributing training material and administering examinations.

The fee to certify new exterminators, including training material and examinations, will increase from \$30 to \$150 per licence category. Most existing licensed exterminators will not need this additional training.

Unlicensed Assistants

Q Are there going to be unlicensed assistants under the new pesticide licensing system?

A Amended Regulation 914 allows a licensed exterminator to supervise up to three unlicensed assistants. Effective Jan. 1, 2000, unlicensed assistants working without onsite direct supervision will have to successfully complete a training program to become technicians. Technicians can apply pesticides under the supervision of a licensed exterminator who must visit once a week to observe the application. Unlicensed assistants who do not train to become technicians must be directly supervised by licensed exterminators at all times.

Other Changes

Q What are the other regulatory changes?

A Other changes include: recycling of empty pesticide containers; standardizing insurance coverage for individuals operating extermination companies; clarifying and modernizing practices and procedures for the use of fumigants and exempting exterminators from obtaining a licence for certain low toxicity pesticides that are available to the general public.

Q How do I get information on where to recycle empty pesticide containers?

A Approximately 200 Ontario pesticide vendors have set up container depots to collect Schedule 1, 2, 3 (non-domestic) and 5 and 6 (non-domestic) containers at their facilities. Licensed exterminators must properly rinse their empty containers before returning them to the depots. Contact your local vendor for the location of the closest container depot or the recycling contractor (United Agri Products) at 1-800-265-5444.

Q How will I be informed of the changes concerning the use of fumigants?

A These changes are extensive and you should consult the guide to the regulatory amendments, *Pesticides in Ontario: Licensing and other regulatory changes - An amendment to Regulation 914 under the Pesticides Act*, for further information.

Q Which low toxicity pesticides are now exempt from exterminator licensing?

A Under the amended Regulation 914, licences will not be required for low toxicity pesticide products which contain specifically soap, mineral oil or silicone dioxide (diatomaceous earth). This is to encourage the use of less toxic pesticides that are available to the general public and the adoption of integrated pest management.

For more information on the new pesticide licensing system and other changes please refer to *Pesticides in Ontario: Licensing and other regulatory changes - An amendment to Regulation 914 under the Pesticides Act*.

If you haven't already received a copy of this guide, contact the Ministry of the Environment's Public Information Centre at (416) 325-4000 or 1-800-565-4923 or visit the ministry's Web site at www.ene.gov.on.ca

For further enquiries regarding the regulatory changes, call the toll free hotline at 1-888-620-9999 or 1-519-674-1576 (non-collect calls only).

On peut se procurer une version française de ce document en communiquant avec le Centre d'information du ministère de l'Environnement (416 325-4000 ou 1 800 565-4923) ou en consultant le site Web du Ministère : www.ene.gov.on.ca.

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